

May/June 2007
Volume 1, Issue 2

AFSOUTH Battalion Newsletter

"Defending Freedom"

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Individual Highlights:

Company News 2	
Chaplain's Corner 3	
Army Ball	4
Recipes	5
School Notes	6

A Day in the Life of Soldier in a Combat Zone

Since NATO had taken the leading role in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, Soldiers from AFSOUTH Battalion were called to duty to perform their NATO missions in several locations in Afghanistan. Among those Soldiers were troops from the Deployable Communications Module (DCM) of the 2nd NATO Signal Battalion (2NSB) who are assigned to Alpha Company, AFSOUTH Battalion in Naples, Italy.

After the New Year, the largest contingent from 2NSB deployed to Afghanistan to relieve Soldiers at three different geographical locations: Kabul ISAF Headquarters, Kandahar Airfield, and Bagram Airfield. A small group of Soldiers augmented their buddies at the ISAF HQ while the larger group of Soldiers deployed to Kandahar Airfield which is located in the southern region of Afghanistan to relieve their German DCM counterpart.

A few weeks later, a squad sized element from 2NSB deployed to Bagram where they conducted the handover and takeover mission from 2NSB Soldiers who had been there for over four months.

In Kandahar Airfield, the Soldiers took control part of the communications infrastructure within ISAF at the Regional Command South. Operating 24 hours a day, the DCM provided services to more than 300 active users on all three networks to include ISAF Secret, NATO Secret, and NATO Unclassified at eight separate locations. Additionally, they also provided NATO Core Network telephone service to the same amount of users. Under DCM, there are two Forward Repair Teams (FRT). These teams provided service to seven remote Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), Operation, Mentorship, Liaison Team (OMLT), and Task Force (TF).

During the initial phase, the FRT constantly flew out to several of these remote locations to install and troubleshoot NATO communications equipment. On a typical mission, the team would spend a week to get to and from the remote locations and to resolve all communications issues. After four months, the Soldiers were changed out with another crew. Now, the German DCM from 1st NATO Signal Battalion has fully taken control of the communications mission. DCM troops are scheduled to redeploy within days to get themselves ready for another mission under the NATO Response Force (NRF) rotation.



HHC Company (Naples, Latina, Milan, Italy & Turkey)



Naples

The spring semi-annual APFTs for HHC were held 2 April and 16 April. On 2 April, 4 of 12 Soldiers who took the PT test scored high enough to receive the PT badge: SGT Turcotte, SSG Townsend, SSG Cooper and 1SG Walker! A special congratulation goes to LTC Dennis Dawson, CSM Felix Rodriguez, CPT Tara Carr, SGT Turcotte for scoring a 300! Congratulations to our recently promoted Chaplain--MAJ Jaedicke! We appreciate your support and dedication to the unit.

We bid farewell to our BN Retention NCO--SFC Steven Bragg. We'll miss you and your family. Best wishes on your upcoming assignment. On 5 April, 40 HHC and Alpha Company Soldiers trained together on Army Warrior Tasks at Carney Park. The day was productive and fun. The Soldiers held a BBQ after training. (Pictures shown) HHC Soldiers will be tested at Carney Park on 19 April on all Army Warrior Tasks. Good Luck!

Latina

Dear All,
As you can see our newsletter has got a new layout. I hope this can be a useful and nice way to keep everyone informed on our community as well as on what happens around in our area. I would like to thank for their help and collaboration all the colleagues who contributed with the content, suggestions and ideas. We are waiting for your feedback in order to make this experience more enjoyable and useful for all of us.
Many Thanks,
Anna Versaggi



Alpha Company (Naples, Italy)

Some upcoming events the SFRG has planned are the following:

Wednesday, April 25. 6:30 at the elementary school there will be a deployment readiness meeting for the spouses. There will be representatives from Tri-Care, Red Cross, Family Fleet Service Center, Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society, Chaplain, Adolescent Counselor, and Child Development Center. There will also be information from Legal, Military One Source, Army Community Service, and Army Emergency Relief. The SFRG will be providing dinner and child care. FMI: contact Katie Chausse at 081-811-5407 or katie.chausse@us.army.mil
Thursday, April 26 there will be

a hot dog/bake sale at the NCCC at JFC from 11:30 – 1:30. If you would like to donate baked goods and/or your time, please contact Judy Zweifel at 081-811-5517 or zweifel94@hotmail.com
Friday, May 18 there will be another bake sale at the Armed Forces Olympics being held at Carney Park. FMI: contact Judy Zweifel.

Saturday, May 19 we will have our First Annual Mother/Spouse Appreciation Breakfast at the Support Site Community Center. We are looking for a few good Soldiers who would like to cook for our wonderful wives; if you would like to sign up please contact Katie Chausse. The breakfast starts at 10:00. The winners of the themed baskets are:

Family Basket: Ashley and Chris Beck
Chocolate Basket: Nicole and Steven McGowan
Easter Basket: Sara and Ernest Smith
Car Care Basket: Julie and Sam Morgan
Thanks to everyone who participated in this event. We are selling Alpha Company T-Shirts. Order yours today by contacting either CPT Zweifel or his wife Judy. Adults are \$13 and children's are \$11.
Alpha Company Clubs
Mommy & Me: Wednesdays at 10:30. FMI contact Stephanie Moulton at 081-811-5486
Walking Club: 7:15pm at the Support Site track. FMI: contact Stephanie Moulton
Deployed Spouses: TBA



Bravo Company (Madrid & Valencia, Spain & Lisbon, Portugal)

Madrid

There is an information sheet/survey that should have been in everyone's mail box. Please take the time to fill it out and return the completed form to the sender. We are trying to get your ideas to better our SFRG. *Everyone is invited to the SFRG meetings.* Your input and participation would be greatly appreciated. We are working towards have more participation

and volunteers for vacant positions. The following are the dates for our upcoming SFRG meetings:
20th Apr 1330-1430
18th May 1330-1430
8th June 1330-1430
Kids Day was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in planning and supervision.

Easter Egg Hunt

A "Big Thank You" to Brian Rice, Dan Sewell, the UMT, and all the other volunteers who helped put on this years Easter Egg Hunt.



Chaplain's Corner

A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

A research psychologist was studying the early childhoods of inmates at an Arizona state prison. He and his associates were seeking to discover the common traits shared by the prisoners. Their ultimate goal was to unlock the causes of the prisoners' deviant behavior.

Originally, the group of researchers thought that poverty would be the common trait. But their findings changed their way of thinking. The prisoners came from all socioeconomic levels, though many of the inmates tried to excuse their misdeeds by claiming to have been poor. Instead, the researchers found one common trait shared by the men: a lack of adult contact in their early home lives. As children, these prisoners spent most of their time with their peers or all alone.

These findings reflect the childhood experiences of Lee Harvey Oswald, Charles Manson and many other violent criminals. The bottom line is this: there is no substitute for loving parental influence in the early years of childhood. The most crucial component to a child's healthy development is a loving adult.

In May, as we celebrate Mother's Day, I want to focus my comments on three qualities a mother can pass on to her children that will help her children reach their God-given potential. From 2 Timothy 1:5-7, we learn three such qualities are inner confidence, unselfish love, and self-control.

Inner Confidence

The first quality a mother can pass on to her children that will help her children reach their God-given potential is inner confidence. In 2 Timothy 1:5-7, the Apostle Paul writes of this inner confidence or "power" (v.7) while reminding Timothy of his strengths. Paul wants to encourage Timothy and build his inner confidence. Given the context, Timothy's mother and grandmother played a key role in building Timothy's inner confidence.

Parental encouragement is crucial to a child's inner confidence. When the child is convinced that he is loved and respected by his parents, he is more likely to develop a positive self-image. And when children have a positive self-image, they are more likely to say "No" to peer pressure when it comes to drugs, sex, and drinking.

In his sermon "Life on Wings", Terry Fullam tells how mother eagles force their young to fly. The mother eagle stands on the edge of the nest and begins to pick up the feathers and leaves lining the nest. She casts them over the edge.

"Mom, what are you doing?"

Mother eagle pays no attention. She rips out great sticks from within the nest. With her strong beak she snaps them in two. She turns them up on end – tearing the place apart.

"Mom, what are you doing?"

Mother eagle pays no attention. She continues destroying the nest, as the branches plummet down the face of the cliff.

"Mom, we're not old enough to go out into the world." Mother eagle pays no attention. Is she destroying the nest because she's tired of housekeeping? Is she destroying the nest because she doesn't like her children anymore? Not at all. She knows something they don't know. Eagles weren't made to perch in the nest. Eagles were made to soar. But they will never soar so long as they are in the nest.

Every mother must someday allow her children to leave the nest. If her children have a high degree of inner confidence because of her praise and encouragement, they will be ready to face the potential pitfalls of life outside the home.

Unselfish Love

The second quality a mother can pass on to her children that will help her children reach their God-given potential is unselfish love. In 2 Timothy 1:5-7, the Apostle Paul writes that Timothy developed this quality in part through his mother and grandmother's influence.

In verse 7, the Apostle Paul uses the Greek term, "agape", in referring to this type of love. "Agape" love is an unselfish love without condition – no strings attached. "Agape" love seeks the highest good of the other person.

Children learn this unselfish love when they see it lived out in their parents' lives. Children see unselfish love modeled in a mother who gets up at all hours of the night to take care of a sick child ... a mother who cooks and cleans and sews without resentment ... a mother who fights fatigue to read for the thousandth time her child's favorite book with first-time excitement.

One morning at breakfast a mother found under her plate a neatly folded piece of paper. She carefully unfolded the paper to discover a note written by Bradley, her eight year old son. "Mother owes Bradley; 25 cents for running errands; 10 cents for being good; 15 cents for taking music lessons; 5 cents for making his bed. Total = 55 cents"

At lunch, Bradley found his bill under his plate with two quarters and a nickel. Bradley also found another piece of paper neatly folded like the first. Opening the paper he read, "Bradley owes Mother; nothing for taking care of him when he had the flu; nothing for being good to him; nothing for clothes, shoes, and playthings; nothing for his meals.

Total = Nothing."

Self-Control

The third quality a mother can pass on to her children that will help her children reach their God-given potential is self-control. In 2 Timothy 1:5-7, the Apostle Paul writes about a spirit of self-control or "discipline" (verse 7) in the context of Timothy's mother and grandmother.

Since self-control does not spring up overnight, this spirit of discipline, though sourced in God, was planted early in Timothy's life by his mother and grandmother. In short, self-control must start young and be cultivated over the years if the child is to learn to be responsible for himself. Self-control, when fully developed, enables a person to do what must be done when his emotions say otherwise. Self-control enables a person to do the right thing even when she doesn't feel like doing it.

In his book, Hide or Seek, James Dobson tells the story of Dr. Stanley Coopersmith, a psychologist at the University of California, who studied 1,738 middle-class boys and their families over many years. Coopersmith identified three important differences between the families of boys with high self-esteem and the families of boys with low self-esteem.

First, the high-esteem boys were more loved and appreciated at home. Second, the high-esteem boys had parents whose approach to discipline was significantly stricter. These parents taught self-control and showed their boys they cared by enforcing reasonable rules. In contrast, the parents of the low-esteem boys were much more lax, creating a sense of insecurity. Third, the high-esteem boys had homes that were characterized by open communication. Once the rules and boundaries were established, the boys were free to ask questions and express their views in an environment of acceptance.

In an increasingly permissive society, mothers should not underestimate the value of teaching self-control. What was said years ago is still true today: "Let a pig and a boy have everything they want, and you'll get a good pig and a bad boy."

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MAJ Paul Jaedicke
Battalion Chaplain

Free Career Coaching and Assistance for Military Spouses

Source: National Military Family Association

The Military Spouse Career Center recently added a free service that is sure to be a popular resource for military spouses seeking employment or career counseling. Spouse Employment Assessment, Career Coaching and Assistance (SEACA) will be provided free of charge by IMPACT group, a St. Louis-based global career management firm and recognized leader in career management services.

Military spouses worldwide will be able to take advantage of professional, certified, on-demand career coaches who will assist spouses identify and work towards employment and career aspirations.

Certified Career Coaches will aid spouses on:

- Career self assessment
- Goal setting
- Resume / cover letter & application development
- Identification of opportunities
- Interviewing
- Negotiating
- Career Mobility

To receive this free expert assistance military spouse should contact the Spouse Employment Assessment, Coaching and Assistance Program (SEACA) at: 1-800-768-3480 or visit: www.military.com/spouse For more information.

Army Birthday Ball



Registration opens on 1 May for the Army Birthday Ball celebrating the United States Army's 232nd Birthday. Since its establishment on June 14, 1775 the United States Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of our nation. American Soldiers have fought in 10 wars, from the American Revolution through the Cold War, the Gulf War and the current War on Terrorism. The Army Birthday Ball is designed to honor the proud history and heritage of our Nation. The Army Birthday Ball will be held on Friday, June 22nd at the Holiday Inn Resort in Castelvoturno, Italy, and is open

to all Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, Department of the Army Civilians, Government Contractors, Family Members, Retirees, Veterans and invited guests. It will be an elegant evening of dining, dancing and entertainment.

Time: Friday, June 22, 2007, 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM (Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 PM)

Location: The Ball will be at the Holiday Inn Resort, Via Domitiana, Castelvoturno

Accommodations: Guests are responsible for arranging their own lodging. For room reservations call: (202) 483-3000.

Cost of Tickets: Ticket price is 40 Euro per person (04/OF3 & above). 30 Euro (E7/OR7 through 03/OF2). 28 Euro (E5/OR5 through E6/OR6). 14 Euro (E4/OR4 & below). First guest is the same price as service member rank.

Attire: Civilian: Formal Evening Wear/Black Tie; Military: Dress Blues/Dress Mess/Dress Greens (or equivalent for other services).

Registration and Tickets: Registration opens on May 1st. Point of contact for making your reservation or for further inquiries is: Captain Tara Carr 081-721-2270 or e-mail: tara.carr@eur.army.mil. Mark your calendar and register early as tickets are limited!

2007 Well-Being Survey

The next Well-Being Survey which will be conducted throughout all USAREUR communities between 14 May and 15 June.

The survey covers 7 key areas:

- Army Ethos
- Pay and Compensation
- Health Care
- Housing and Workplace
- Education and Personal Development
- Family Support
- Community Welfare and Recreation

Last year most responses came

from active duty military, with civilian employees second and family members third. The USAREUR leadership and Soldier and Family Support Program Managers are frequently drawing on the answers the communities provided.

The new 2007 survey questionnaire will be available on the website. Answer sheets will be disseminated through the Garrison PAI Offices. Additionally, each unit will have a survey Point of Contact who

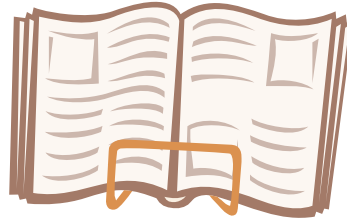
will have answer sheets available and will be able to process the return of the sheets. The survey is anonymous. USAREUR would like to increase the number of responses from family members this year, to insure that the Army is fully aware of their concerns; especially in deployed communities.

Please go to the following website for more information.

<http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/umss/wbs.htm>

Swiss Chicken

*Cut 4 chicken breasts and place in a baking dish.
 *Put a layer of Swiss cheese over the chicken.
 *Mix 1/4 Cup Milk with one can of Cream of Chicken soup and pour over the cheese
 *Sprinkle 2 Cups of Stuffing Mix over the soup layer.
 *Pour 1/2 Cup melted butter over the stuffing
 *Bake at 350 degrees for 50-55 minutes
Courtesy of Marlene Cullum – Alpha Company



Broccoli Salad

*Dressing (make the night before)
 1 cup mayonnaise (NOT miracle whip)
 1/2 cup sugar (or Splenda)
 2 Tablespoons white vinegar
 *Mix together and refrigerate
 1 pound broccoli (including stalks) - Cut into bit-size pieces
 1 pound bacon - Fried and crumbled
 1 Medium Red onion - Diced
 1- 1 1/2 cups cashews
 *Mix broccoli and onion
 *Add bacon, cashews and dressing right before serving. Enjoy!
Courtesy of Kelly Carling – Alpha Company

Soldier Quotes

"Some people achieve greatness, I am destined for it!"
 "Sometimes your best is all you can give."
 "Public executions will continue until moral increases"
 "It should be in the accordance with the prophecy"
 "The applied task is...."
 "America is not at war with terrorism. The United States Army is at war with terrorism. America is at the mall."
 "All Soldiers are entitled to OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP"
 "This is the day that the Lord hath made, I will rejoice and be glad in it."
 "It is not the mistakes we make...but the recovery which is important!" LTC Daniel Sacks
 "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference". The Serenity Prayer

Defense Travel System News

DTS (Defense Travel System) notes: PSC orders are still generated on paper (the old way) as well as Invitational Travel Orders and Permissive TDYs. All other TDYs including medical, schools, trainings and SF 1164 shall be input through DTS.
 YANA GLOVER
 Budget Analyst
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AFSOUTH Grapevine

A new carjacking ploy: The ploy used to get drivers out of their car is to make a thud or pop sound on your car, and someone waiving at the driver to have them pull over to check the "damage". Once the carjackers get the driver to pull over; the driver gets out of the car with the keys still inside. Once the driver does this, one of the carjackers steals the car and takes off along with the others. Older couples are not becoming part of the carjacking team. Beware!!

Be mindful of your neighbors when it comes to your gas coupons. Just because they are your "host nation friends" doesn't mean you can trust them. Always be on high alert when your valuables are at stake. Don't assume this will never happen to you.

Kudos Club

Hails:

SSG Van Abad
 SPC Dustin Studie
 MAJ Jeremiah Jette
 SSG Daniel Gaskins
 SSG Alycia Dubry
 SGT Angela Pace
 CPL Brinson

Farewells:

SSG Marcel Hawkins
 SFC Robert Barlow
 SGT Aaron Johnson
 MSG Martez Sims
 SFC Steven Bragg
 SGT Kristy McIntosh
 SGT Damion Noiell
 SSG Robert Way
 COL Tom Chapman
 LTC Lou Rago

Farewells cont...

SSG Jennifer Simmons
 MSG Linda Smith
 SSG Ernest Smith
 SFC Marcus Podell
 BG Richard McPhee
 SGM Anna Gregory
 MSG Roy Deville
 LTC Daniel Sacks
 LTC Chris Roscoe

Promotions:

SSG Lloyd Pinnock to SFC
 MAJ Robert Unger to LTC
 CPT Paul Jaedicke to MAJ
 SSG Joe Starn to SFC
 LTC Ed Daly to COL
 SFC George Hunter to MSG
 PFC Joel Rodriguez to SPC

New Babies:

Dylan Rice March 18
 Proud parents: Brian and Sabrina

"Duty, Honor, Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be".

Douglas MacArthur

AFSOUTH Battalion Soldier & Family Readiness Group

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.usanato.army.mil

This website is still under
construction.

Promotion Points for Completing Army Community Services Courses

Soldiers can earn up to 4 promotion points for completion of Financial Readiness, Operation Ready, New Parent Support Program, Army Family Team Building (Level I) classroom instruction, and for Army Family Team Building (Level I, II, III) on-line instruction. A total of four promotion points can be awarded for 40 cumulative hours of course instruction. To learn more about these courses, visit your post's Army Community Service Center, or go to: www.MyArmyLifeToo.com

Free SAT/ACT Software Offer for Military Children

Thanks to an offer from the Victory Sports Group, college-bound military children now have access to free SAT/ACT Standard Power Prep program (worth \$199) for only shipping and handling costs. The SAT/ACT Power programs, available as CD or DVD ROM

set, will be available until July 1, 2007. Visit

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/> and look under "special offers" to find out more.

To view a flyer that has been made to assist in the effort, go to:

<http://sat.eknowledge.com/military.asp>

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge

In support of families of deployed service members, Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host four 2007 Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge sessions this summer! Participants have the common bond of having one or both parents deployed. Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge—which stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth—is an opportunity to get away for a week of fun and a chance to meet other kids facing the challenges of having a parent deployed. Camp sessions will include activities to help youth develop strategies to cope with the stress associated with deployment.

City Adventure:
July 16-21
Heidelberg, Germany
Age Group: Middle School
(Grades 6-8)
Camp session will feature a
cultural awareness program

Tall Ship Sailing Program:
July 21-27 and
July 27-August 1
Baltic Sea
Age Group: High School
(Grades 9-12)

Island Adventure:
August 6-11
North Sea
Age Group: Middle School (Grades 6-8)
Camp session will feature an
environmental awareness program

Please note: A registration fee of \$50 will be charged for each youth attending camp and will be due upon acceptance into a camp session. Air transportation or individualized transportation will not be funded. Questions? Go to <https://public.euromwr.army.mil/camparmychallenge.htm> or Email camparmychallenge@eur.army.mil for details on Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge.

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